

William E. G. Saunders

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D. M. Ferry Seed company in Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, West Virginia and North Carolina, he located in Shenandoah with the Mount Arbor nurseries, and in 1918 established the seed and nursery business bearing his name; married Gertrude Frances Welch June 8, 1916, daughter of E. S. Welch, Shenandoah nurseryman, and they have two children, Mrs. J. D. Rankin, Jr., of Shenandoah, and Edward Welch May, associated with his father in business which has 30 nursery and seed stores in Iowa, Nebraska and Minnesota; in 1924 first explored the possibilities of radio as a means of education and publicity, first presenting a special program through an Omaha station, from a studio in Shenandoah by remote control; then established KMA in August, 1925, which became one of the most popular broadcasting stations in the middle west; with his wife donated land for a city park and also with Mrs. May and her father bought and gave the Southmoreland country club to the American Legion as a community recreation center; was always aggressive in community enterprises and served as chairman of the Hand Hospital trustees for more than twenty-five years and a member of the park board many years; served many nurserymen's associations as an officer, including the presidency of the American Association of Nurserymen, a member of the bar association in both Iowa and Nebraska; held many local positions of honor and was a past president of the Shenandoah chamber of commerce; a member also of Masonic bodies and was widely traveled; interested intensively in agricultural experimental station at Iowa State college at Ames, Iowa; assisting in the introduction of new varieties of legumes, oats and hybrid seed corn; made possible the establishment in Guatemala the experimental station by Iowa State college by a grant of \$75,000.00 and by subsequent liberal grants which he made annually.

WILLIAM E. G. SAUNDERS, banker, soldier and legislator, died at Altadena, California, January 16, 1947; born in Blairgowrie, Scotland, in 1865; came to America in 1882; lived four years in New Mexico and located at Emmetsburg, Iowa in 1886; associated with the old Scottish-American Land Company, and was one of its agents in northwest Iowa; became captain of Old Company K, Emmetsburg's Iowa National Guard unit; served as quartermaster of the 52nd Iowa Volunteer Infantry during the Spanish-American war; became president of the former Commercial bank at Emmetsburg before it was absorbed by the First National Bank, and was a director of the latter bank; served the state banking department as a bank receiver; a member of Fortieth, Fortieth extra, Forty-first, Forty-second and Forty-second extra sessions of the Iowa House of Representatives; always an active and energetic civic-

mindful citizen, influential in his section of the state; after retirement from business removed to California, where three sons are living—George, a Los Angeles banker, Gordon, a lawyer there, Ewart, residing at San Mateo, and the only daughter, Mrs. William del Valle (Vina Saunders), has been in California with her family, but soon will remove to Seattle, Washington.

SETH BENJAMIN DURANT, farmer, teacher and legislator, died at his home in Madison township, Hancock county, Iowa, January 22, 1947; born in Madison township just west of the township school, within one-half mile of the present home place, January 9, 1873, of pioneer parents, John and Matilda Durant; educated in the rural schools and at Garner business college; at age of seventeen took the teacher's examination and was given a certificate to teach, which he followed for twelve years; united in marriage to Edith A. Howland, of Madison township, November 5, 1902, and to them were born two daughters, Doris and Velma, and two sons were adopted, Donald and Duane Leo; continued upon the farm since 1903, and assisted in sponsoring a rural telephone line, a farmer's co-operative elevator, the Farm Bureau and the Farmer's Mutual telephone company; energetic and active in community affairs; served as a member of the Iowa House of Representatives in the Thirty-sixth General Assembly, the Forty-fourth, Forty-fifth and Forty-fifth extra sessions; served as school treasurer twenty years, chairman of the official board of the Calvary Baptist church at Forest City, Iowa, and as an officer or director of numerous local organizations.

JOHN M. RAMSEY, publisher and legislator, died February 23, 1944, at Clarksville, Iowa; born February 25, 1869 at Clarksville, residing there his entire life; educated in the local schools, graduated from the high school and a private college; learned the printer's trade early in life, and almost continuously since had been connected with the *Clarksville Star*, of which he had long been the publisher; served as town clerk, assessor, and Butler county treasurer; was senator from the Thirty-ninth Iowa district consisting of Butler and Bremer counties in the Forty-first, Forty-second and Forty-second extra sessions; also was a member of the House of Representatives from Butler county in the Thirty-ninth, Fortieth and Fortieth extra sessions; at time of death was serving as justice of the peace at Clarksville; married to Della Shafer September 30, 1893 and at time of death was divorced, with two daughters surviving, Mrs. Gay Jackson of Clarksville and Mrs. Lavon Anderson of Des Moines, and two sons preceding the father in death; a member of the Presbyterian church and of the Knights of Pythias and Odd Fellow orders.

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